IN THE CLAIMS

Presented below is a complete listing of all the claims in the format as permitted by the PTO waiver of 37 CFR 1.121 in accordance with the Official Gazette Notice of February 25, 2003.

Claims 1-64 (Cancelled).

65. (Original) A method of adding a new policy statement to a plurality of policy statements stored in a first memory, comprising:

comparing a new priority number associated with the new policy statement to a plurality of priority numbers stored in a second memory, the plurality of priority numbers each associated with a respective one of the plurality of policy statements stored in the first memory;

determining that the new priority number is more significant than one of the plurality of priority numbers stored in the second memory;

updating the determined priority number in the second memory without changing its physical location in the second memory;

writing the new priority number to an available location in the second memory; and

writing the new policy statement to an available location in the first memory.

66. (Original) The method of claim 65, wherein the new priority number is more significant than the determined priority number when the new priority number is greater than or equal to the determined priority number.

67. (Original) The method of claim 65, wherein the new priority number is more significant than the determined priority number when the new priority number is less than or equal to the determined priority number.

68. (Original) A method of adding a new policy statement to a plurality of policy statements stored in a first memory, comprising:

altering a new priority number associated with the new policy statement;

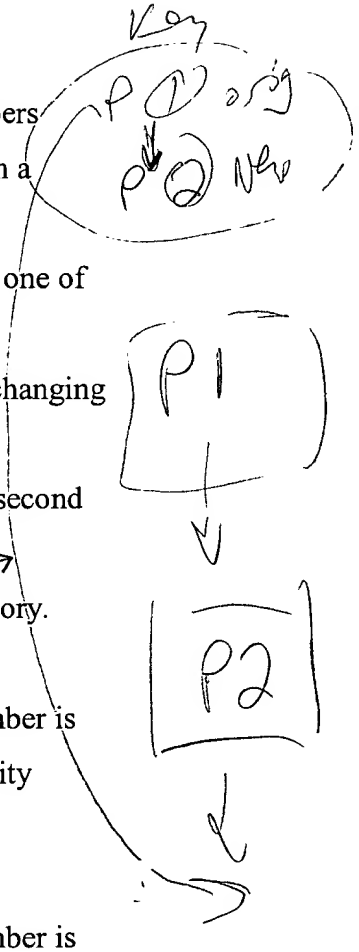
comparing the altered new priority number to a plurality of priority numbers stored in a second memory, the plurality of priority numbers each associated with a respective one of the plurality of policy statements stored in the first memory;

determining that the altered new priority number is more significant than one of the plurality of priority numbers stored in the second memory;

updating the determined priority number in the second memory without changing its physical location in the second memory;

writing the unaltered new priority number to an available location in the second memory; and

writing the new policy statement to an available location in the first memory.



69. (Original) The method of claim 68, wherein the altered new priority number is more significant than the determined priority number when the altered new priority number is greater than the determined priority number.

70. (Original) The method of claim 68, wherein the altered new priority number is more significant than the determined priority number when the altered new priority number is less than the determined priority number.

71. (Original) The method of claim 68, wherein altering the new priority number comprises decrementing the new priority number.

72. (Original) The method of claim 68, wherein altering the new priority number comprises incrementing the new priority number.

73. (Original) A method of deleting a policy statement from a plurality of policy statements stored in a first memory, comprising:

comparing a priority number associated with the policy statement to a plurality of priority numbers stored in a second memory, the plurality of priority numbers each associated with a respective one of the plurality of policy statements stored in the first memory;

determining that the priority number is equal to one of the plurality of priority numbers;

providing an indication of the location of the matched priority number in the second memory to the first memory to access the policy statement; and

deleting the policy statement from the first memory.

74. (Original) The method of claim 73, further comprising:

comparing the priority number with the plurality of priority numbers in the second memory;

determining that the priority number is less than one of the plurality of priority numbers;

updating the determined priority number without changing its physical location in the second memory, and without changing the physical location in the first memory of the policy statement associated with the determined priority number.

75. (Original) The method of claim 73, further comprising:

comparing the priority number with the plurality of priority numbers in the second memory;

determining that the priority number is greater than one of the plurality of priority numbers;

updating the determined priority number without changing its physical location in the second memory, and without changing the physical location in the first memory of the policy statement associated with the determined priority number.

Claims 76-87 (Cancelled).

88. (New) A digital signal processor, comprising:

a content addressable memory (CAM); and

a priority index table coupled to the CAM, the priority index table comprising:

a counter coupled to the CAM; and

priority logic coupled to provide to a plurality of signal lines an indication of a location of a most significant priority number in the priority index table.

89. (New) The digital signal processor of claim 88, wherein the counter comprises increment logic.

90. (New) The digital signal processor of claim 89, wherein the counter comprises increment logic.

91. (New) The digital signal processor of claim 88, wherein the counter comprises increment logic.

92. (New) The digital signal processor of claim 88, wherein the priority index table further comprises a plurality of inequality circuits coupled between the counter and the priority logic.

93. (New) The digital signal processor of claim 88, wherein the counter comprises a plurality of memory storage elements to store a plurality of priority numbers and wherein each of the plurality of inequality circuits are configured to compare a new priority number with the plurality of priority numbers stored in the counter.

94. (New) The digital signal processor of claim 93, wherein each of the plurality of inequality circuits are further configured to determine whether the new priority number is more significant than one of the plurality of priority numbers stored in the counter.

95. (New) The digital signal processor of claim 94, wherein the counter further comprises at least one of increment logic and decrement logic to update the determined priority number in the counter.